

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 15, 21 through 23, 28 through 30, and 49 through 63 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please amend Claims 1, 2, 7, 9, 12, 16 through 18, 24, 25, 31 through 34, and 41 as follows:

A. 1. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus, comprising:  
input means for inputting color image data;  
judging means for judging whether judgment has already been completed of whether a color image composed of the color image data is a specific image ~~has been already performed~~; and  
image judging means for judging whether the color image ~~includes~~ is the specific image if the judgment ~~has not been~~ is not performed yet,  
wherein said image judging means does not perform the judgment if the judgment by said judging means is being performed.

2. (Currently Amended) The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

image forming means for forming a color image corresponding to the color image data, wherein said image forming means does not form the color image or forms an image that becomes worthless by copying if a result of the judgment having been already ~~performed~~ completed is that the color image composed of the color image data is the

specific image or the image judgment by the image judging means shows that the color image composed of the color image data is the specific image.

Q. 3. (Original) The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising judgment result input means for inputting a result of judgment of whether the color image composed of the color image data is the specific image, wherein judgment by the judging means is performed ahead of judgment by said image judging means.

4. (Original) The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said specific image is a security such as a bank note and a traveler's check.

5. (Original) The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said image judging means judges the color image data by pattern matching or color matching, or judges digital water mark information included in the color image data.

6. (Original) The image processing apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said judgment result input means inputs a result of the judgment ahead of the color image data.

7. (Currently Amended) The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein ~~said~~ the color image data is inputted from a scanner, or a digital camera.

8. (Original) The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the color image data is inputted via a network.

9. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus, comprising:  
receiving means for receiving color image data from any of an image generating apparatus having a forgery judging function and an image generating apparatus not having a forgery judging function;  
judging means for judging whether a color image composed of the color image data received by said receiving means is a specific image; and  
output means for outputting the color image data so as to make an image forming unit form a color image by using the color image data received from said receiving means, wherein the image processing apparatus controls formation of the color image according to a result of judgment in the image generating apparatus having the forgery judging function if the color image data is generated by the image generating apparatus having the forgery judging function, and controls formation of the color image according to a result of judgment by said judging means if the color image data is generated by the image generating apparatus not having the forgery judging function.

10. (Original) The image processing apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the image generating apparatus is a scanner or a digital camera.

11. (Original) The image processing apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the specific image is a security such as a bank note, and a traveler's check.

12. (Currently Amended) The image processing apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said ~~image~~ judging means judges the color image data by pattern matching or color matching, or judges digital water mark information included in the color image.

13. (Original) The image processing apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the image generating apparatus having a forgery judging function transmits a result of the forgery judgment ahead of the color image data.

14. (Original) The image processing apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said receiving means receives the color image data via a network.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) An image processing method, comprising the steps of:

inputting color image data;


judging whether judgment has already been completed of whether a color image composed of the color image data is a specific image ~~has been, already performed~~; and

judging whether the color image is the specific image if the judgment ~~has not been~~ is not performed yet,

wherein said specific image judging step does not perform the judgment if the judgment by said judgment completion judging step is being performed.

17. (Currently Amended) An image processing method, comprising the steps of:

receiving color image data from any of an image generating apparatus having a forgery judging function and an image generating apparatus not having a forgery judging function;

 judging whether a color image composed of the color image data received by the said receiving means step is a specific image; and

outputting the color image data so as to make an image forming unit form a color image by using the color image data received, wherein the image processing method further comprises the steps of controlling formation of the color image according to a result of judgment in the image generating apparatus having the forgery judging function if the color image data is generated by the image generating apparatus having the forgery judging function, and controlling formation of the color image according to a result of judgment by the said judging means step if the color image data is generated by the image generating apparatus not having the forgery judging function.

18. (Currently Amended) An image processing system that has a first apparatus inputting an image signal, and a second apparatus outputting an image by using the image signal, wherein said first apparatus comprises first judging means for comparing the image signal, read by the said first apparatus, with data corresponding to a specific image, ~~and~~

wherein the said second apparatus has second judging means for comparing the image signal with data corresponding to a specific image, and

wherein said first judging means and said second judging means perform judgment of different specific images.

19. (Original) The image processing system according to claim 18, wherein the data corresponding to a specific image is pattern data.

20. (Original) The image processing system according to claim 18, wherein the data corresponding to a specific image is digital water mark data.

21-23. (Cancelled)

24. (Currently Amended) The image processing system according to claim 18, wherein ~~the~~ said first apparatus is a scanner, and ~~the~~ said second apparatus is a printer.

25. (Currently Amended) An image processing method in an image processing system that has a first apparatus inputting an image signal, and a second apparatus outputting an image by using the image signal, said method comprising:

a first judging step of performing a first judgment of comparing the image signal, read by the first apparatus, with data corresponding to a specific image in the first apparatus; and

a second judging step of performing a second judgment of comparing the image signal with data corresponding to a specific image in the second apparatus,

wherein said first judgment and said second judgment perform judgment of different specific images.

26. (Original) The image processing method according to claim 25, wherein the data corresponding to a specific image is pattern data.

27. (Original) The image processing method according to claim 25, wherein the data corresponding to a specific image is digital water mark data.

28-30. (Cancelled)

31. (Currently Amended) The image processing method according to claim 25, wherein ~~said~~ the first apparatus is a scanner, and the second apparatus is a printer.


32. (Currently Amended) The image processing method according to claim 25, wherein the data corresponding to a specific image is ~~down-loaded~~ downloaded from a computer.

33. (Currently Amended) An image processing method, wherein, if in response to an image signal inputted ~~is not being~~ a specific image as a result of judgment of whether the image signal inputted corresponds to the specific image, the image signal is stored as an image file.

34. (Currently Amended) The image processing method according to claim 33, wherein ~~said~~ the specific image is a security, and at least one out of color, a pattern, and a digital water mark is used for the judgment.

35. (Original) The image processing method according to claim 33, wherein information of a specific image having been already judged is added to the image file.

36. (Original) The image processing method according to claim 35, wherein the information of a specific image having been already judged is protected.

 37. (Original) The image processing method according to claim 33, wherein, when an image corresponding to the image file is printed, it is judged whether the image is a specific image.

38. (Original) The image processing method according to claim 35, wherein the information of a specific image having been already judged is added to the image file, and judgment at the time of printing is performed on the basis of the additional information.

39. (Original) The image processing method according to claim 38, wherein judgment of a specific image having been already judged is omitted on the basis of the additional information.



40. (Original) An image processing method, comprising the steps of:  
obtaining information that is added to an image file and denotes whether it has  
been already judged whether the image file includes a specific image; and  
judging the image file on specific images, which have not been judged yet, if  
the judgment has been already performed, and judging the image file on specific images,  
which can be used for judgment, if no judgment has been performed.

41. (Currently Amended) The image processing method according to claim 40,  
wherein the specific image is a security, and at least one ~~out~~ of color, a pattern, and a  
digital water mark is used for the judgment.

42. (Original) The image processing method according to claim 40, wherein  
the information is protected.

43. (Original) The image processing method according to claim 40, further  
comprising the steps of:  
judging that an apparatus generating the image file does not have a specific  
image judging function; and  
generating information for supplying the specific image judging function to the  
apparatus generating the image file.

44. (Original) The image processing method according to claim 43, wherein  
the information for supplying the specific image judging function is address information.

45. (Original) The image processing method according to claim 33, wherein the image processing method is implemented in a scanner driver.

46. (Original) The image processing method according to claim 40, wherein the image processing method is implemented by a printer driver.

Q1 47. (Original) An image processing apparatus realizing the image processing method according to claim 33.

48. (Original) A storage medium storing the image file according to claim 33.

49-63. (Cancelled)

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